

TWENTIETH FLIGHT ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

# AVIATION

*The Oldest American Aeronautical Magazine*

DECEMBER 17, 1923

Issued Weekly

PRICE 10 CENTS



Twenty years after the Wright brothers' first successful flights—Typical tractor biplane of today

VOLUME  
XV

## SPECIAL FEATURES

NUMBER  
25

ORIGINAL WRIGHT AIRPLANE DESCRIBED  
THE FLYING EXPERIMENTS AT KITTY HAWK  
SIR GEORGE CAYLEY'S WORK IN AERONAUTICS  
NAVAL FLIGHT EXPEDITION INTO ARCTIC REGIONS

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## PUBLISHER'S NEWS LETTER

Twenty years is a short span of time in the history of a scientific achievement. In the life of an industry it is much longer. Twenty years in the telephone, automobile or radio industries have established them as industrial units and large permanent groups in the commercial world. The aviation industry has passed through several periods of development during its short twenty years of growth. Unfortunately, it has not been one of continuous expansion. Nevertheless the progress made has in it great promise for the future.

The early period of promotion of this new invention was largely in the nature of exhibition flying. The Wrights and the other early promoters were quick to recognize the intense interest of the public in witness exhibitions of flying and most of the early machines were devoted to that work. The manufacturing of airplanes at this early period was largely to supply this need. It was in those early days that the Wrights offered to throw open to the American people the rights to their patents for what now appears to be the insignificant sum of \$100,000. That this offer was not accepted is an evidence of the lack of foresight of those interested in aeronautics at that time.

The second period was largely devoted to the fortifying of the patent situation by everyone interested in aviation. As is the case in all new arts, claims were disputed and litigation ensued. But, nevertheless, there was development work going on all the time. Foreign progress in this period far outstripped our work, so that when the Great War came the American airplane constructors were unprepared to handle the unprecedented demand for aircraft.

The third period was the great expansion from 1914 to 1918 during the war. First, the orders came from abroad for raw materials, parts and to a certain extent airplanes. Then, when the United States entered the war, the rush came for everything pertaining to aircraft. The demand was so great that factories in other lines were turned to

the manufacture of airplanes and airplane parts and accessories. But with the attention cases the end of this period.

The fourth period has been from 1919 to date, when the expanded manufacturing facilities were put through the difficult process of reconstruction. Many aircraft companies have disappeared altogether and those that are left are more divisions of the large organizations that were built up during the war. Many attempts have been made to develop some form of commercial aviation, but with the exception of the Air Mail, there has been very little accomplished that can truly be said to be on a sound business basis. In other words, the aircraft industry has now reached a condition where it is almost entirely dependent on government business.

The concluding note of the present outlook is the undeniable fact that American aircraft engineering has made considerable progress and in many particulars leads the world. The twenty years have built up an appreciation of the public to the necessity of aerial defense. Given the support that they should receive, the next few years will show great advances in our governmental air services both in equipment and number of personnel. This will mean a larger commercial industry arising aside from the use of commercial air transport.

It is to the use of aircraft in aerial transportation that the aircraft industry must look for a substantial growth in the future. Government business is too precarious to serve as a solid foundation for industrial success. The next twenty years will bring with them a realization of the hopes of those who have been waiting and working patiently for the use of aerial transportation. These and few only will the utility of the Wright Brothers invention reach its final goal. These near-hundred young men of Dayton were intended their invention to be turned into a machine of terrible destruction. They and everyone else have hoped that this new means of transportation could be turned to benefit mankind by its peaceful use.

DECEMBER 17, 1923

## AVIATION

VOL. XV, NO. 25

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### CONTENTS

F. Storch's	738	U. S. Naval Air Expedition into the Arctic	745
The Twentieth Anniversary of Heilmann Flight	739	Attempt at Altimeter Record	746
It's We Made the First Flight	737	Flying in Wyoming	749
Rescuing the Collier Trophy Award	741	Aerports and Airways	750
S. George Copley's Work in Aeronautics	744	U. S. Army and Navy Air Forces	752

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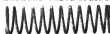
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## The Twentieth Flight Anniversary

On the publication date of this issue twenty years have elapsed since the epoch making day when the brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright solved the problem of sustained flight with a power driven machine, heavier than air, built to their own designs and piloted by themselves. Four flights, each under full control of the men on board, were made with the motor. Wright airplanes over the decades made three of Kitty Hawk, N. C., on Dec. 17, 1903. The longest of these flights lasted slightly less than a minute and covered a distance of approximately three-fifths of a mile. The problem of airplane flight, which had baffled countless experimenters for a century, was solved to the imperishable glory of America.

This momentous event marks one of the greatest and most heroic fought for accomplishments of the human race. The entire century, reaching back into the dim past of their ancestral struggle on the path of progress, show that centuries immemorial ago human beings dreamed of reaching to each flight of birds. In the ancient mythologic gods and deities, were endowed with the gift of flight as an attribute of supreme power. For humans to think of building wings to themselves was considered ungodlike and called for the extreme punishment. Even in the more enlightened ages, when the mechanical arts began developing, the idea of human flight was commonly associated with the powers of darkness. Experiments which engineers that would liberate mankind from the bondage of gravity were, for the reason, but rarely made in public, and records of those made as private were seldom kept. Hence, our knowledge of ancient flying experiments is extremely fragmentary.

Only with the advent of modern engineering methods and scientific research, in the nineteenth century, was the problem of mechanical flight given serious and continuing attention. In some short periods which characteristically breved the ridicule which had so often been the price of ancient experimentation. It was the middle century of this century, Sir George Cayley, Wenham, Bratton, Lillie, Prout, Langley, Lilienthal and Chanute, who laid the track foundations of the modern theory of sustained flight. These men were definitely here from model experiments for flight with machines heavier than air was possible, they knew it. A full sized airplane required to make it fly and what a wild fly procedure it could be made to leave the ground and yet, when the nineteenth century came to its close, the airplane had been as yet. To bring about this accomplishment, two essential problems remained to be solved: the controllability in flight, the difficulty of which had been supposed to be one of these problems, but not solved. The other was the question of a power plant light enough to be supported in use on an airplane.

It will remain the undying fame of the Wright brothers to have solved these difficulties when they approached the problem of human flight, and of having overcome them

in the incredibly short span of four years. After having shattered themselves with the operation of gliders in the manner shown by Lilienthal and Chanute, and having mastered the problem of stability by a tedious combination of control surfaces, as disclosed by Chanute's wind tunnel work, they proceeded to build their first motor driven airplane. Looking to obtain from the automobile industry an engine light enough for their purpose caused them to construct their own airplane motor together with the propellers and the necessary transmission gear. And when the machine was assembled and tested, it flew under full control of the pilot, just as they had anticipated.

What the invention of the airplane will ultimately mean to the world, one as yet but dimly be visualized. We have already witnessed in the present war of the human race, the application of the flying machine to the manifold requirements of military science. We now see it engaged beyond the frontiers of military warfare not to it by those steeped in age long traditions, and assume the role of a new agency of independent warfare.

But however important a part airplanes will play in future wars, it is in connection with commercial activities that their greatest immediate scope lies. The carrying by airplane of mails, express matter and special types of freight as well as of passengers, though still in its formative stage, already constitutes an important branch of human activity. Aerial photography and surveying, agriculture, exploration and relief work are other fields where the airplane is usefully employed in ever growing numbers. Thus, twenty years after its invention, the airplane can truly be said to have become a well nigh indispensable instrument of civilization.

## The Naval Arctic Air Expedition

WONDERFUL as has been the progress of aviation during the past twenty years, as accomplished by such spectacular feats as the non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean and across the greater breadth of the United States nothing could perhaps better indicate the advance made in the art than the proposed American naval air expedition into the Arctic.

Though the plans of the expedition have been made public only in the narrow outline, the statement that heavier-than-air craft and lighter-than-air craft will both participate in this great venture is warmly welcomed. We have always held that airplanes and airships are complementary to one another, in war as well as in peace. Their combined employment for exploring a vast unknown region adjacent to the North Pole will make available interesting data regarding the manner in which airplanes and airships stand up under the strenuous conditions of an arctic expedition. This information will be readily applicable to the commercial and military operation of aircraft and so be of considerable value to all men and nations of aircraft.

# The Twentieth Anniversary of Mechanical Flight

## Two Authoritative Accounts of the Wright Brothers' Flying Experiments

On Dec. 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, N. C., for the first time in the world's history, a machine heavier than air rose from the ground under its own power, covered a certain distance in controlled horizontal flight and returned safely to earth with the men who had guided its progress through the air. This original airplane, studied, designed and built—including the power plant—by the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, had thus made its maiden flight.

Orville piloted the plane on this flight, then Wilbur took hold of the controls and repeated the performance with the same success. Before the day was over, four flights had been accomplished, the longest of which covered a distance of 852 ft., the time of flight being 59 sec. This momentous date marks the opening chapter of the story of aviation, the full significance of which it is as yet hardly realized at large.

In commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of this epoch-making event, which falls on the publication date of this issue, AVIATION is presenting before two authoritative accounts of the Wright brothers' first successful flights and of the preliminary experiments leading up to this accomplishment.

It was hoped to secure from Orville Wright a more detailed account of his and his brother Wilbur's work on their solving the problem of mechanical flight. But the Wright brothers never saw public editors, which will be regretted by posterity, for the few arti-

cles they contributed on aeronautics disclose a marked ability of grasping the mechanics of flight in terms both local and cosmic. Their reluctance to put their experiences into writing was humorously justified by Wilbur during his flying demonstrations in France, in 1908, when he said: "The only kind that tells a lie is the pen, and he is not a light flier."

This sentence explains why there is so little authentic information which could be considered a true story of the dawn of mechanical flight. However, in a letter to the Editor of AVIATION, Orville Wright writes as follows:

"The only statement ever put out either by Wilbur or myself intended to be a Story of Mechanical Flight was the article in the September, 1908, Century Magazine, entitled 'The Wright Brothers' Airplane, by Orville and Wilbur Wright.' I prepared the article while Wilbur was in Europe, but as I used a number of expressions taken from his writings, I added to mine as one of the authors. This is the only article that I know of that gives a statement (though only in outline) of the work done in producing the first flying machine."

This is the story printed before by courtesy of Century Magazine. Following it will be found a detailed account of the first power flights made at Kitty Hawk, N. C., which were contributed by Orville Wright to Flying (New York) of December, 1913.—EDITOR.

## The Wright Brothers' Aeroplane

By ORVILLE and WILBUR WRIGHT

Reprinted from "Century Magazine," September, 1908

Through the interest of aerial navigation is generally considered rare, it has occupied the minds of men more or less from the earliest ages. Our personal interest in it dates from our childhood days. Late in the summer of 1878, our father came into the house one morning with some sheets of paper pinned to his hands, and before we could ask him what it was, he tossed it into the air. Instead of falling to the floor, as we expected, at first within the room till it struck the ceiling, when it darted away, and then to the floor. It was a little toy known to scientists as a "Mikropapir," but which we, with childish disregard of science, at once dubbed a "kite." It was a light frame of cork and bamboo, covered with paper, which formed two areas, driven by opposed currents by rubber bands under tension. A toy so delicate lasted only a short time in the hands of small boys, but its memory was vivid.

Several years later we began building these balloons for our own use, making each one larger than the last. But, to our disappointment, we found that the larger the "kite," the less it flew. We did not know that a machine having any form the laws of aerodynamics of another would require quite twice the power. We finally became discouraged, and returned to kite-flying, a sport to which we had devoted so much attention that we were regarded as experts. But as we became older, we had to give up this fascinating sport as unbecoming to boys of our ages.

It was not till the news of the sad death of Lalande reached America in 1896 that we again took an interest in those things passing unnoticed in the subject of flying. We then

started with great interest Chanute's "Progress in Free Ballooning," Langley's "Experiments in Aerodynamics," and "Aerodynamical Aspects" of 1895, 1896, and 1897, and some pamphlets published by the Smithsonian Institution, especially articles by Lalande and extracts from Maudslayi's "Science of the Air." The latter works gave us a good understanding of the nature of the power problem, and the flight attempts in power attempts to solve it, since Lalande and Maudslayi, the great authorities of the flying world, stated as with their own unapproachable confidence, and broadcast this certainty into the entire soul of workers.

### Two Schools of Aviation

In the field of aviation there were two schools. The one, represented by such men as Professor Langley and by Don Norman, gave great attention to power flight, the second represented by Lalande, Maudslayi and Chanute, to sailing flight. Our sympathies were with the latter school, just from experience at the wonderful extravagance of aerial devices and costly attempts on wings which we did not feel it necessary and partly, no doubt, from the extraordinary calm and confidence with which the apostles of power flight set forth the location of sailing through the air as a fluid, simple, obvious, the motive power from the wind itself.

The balance of a free wing seems, at first thought, to be a very simple matter, yet almost every experienced balancer found in this the one point which he could not satisfactorily master. Many different methods were tried. Some engineers placed the center of gravity far below the wing, a



Orville Wright



Wilbur Wright

the belief that the weight would naturally seek to remain at its lowest point. It was true, that, like the pendulum, it tended to seek the lowest point; but also, like the pendulum, it tended to oscillate in a manner destructive of all stability. A more satisfactory system, especially for lateral balance, was that of arranging the wings in the shape of a broad V, to form a dihedral angle, with the lower line and the wings elevated. In theory this was an automatic system, but in practice it had two serious defects: first, it tended to keep the machine oscillating; and, second, its mechanism was removed to such an extent.

In a slightly modified form the same system was applied to the forward-tilt balance. The main aerodynamic was set at a positive angle, and a horizontal tail at a negative angle, while the center of gravity was placed far forward. As in the case of lateral control, there was a tendency to constant oscillation, and the very device which seemed a safeguard of balance in fact, caused a disturbance of the balance in words. Notwithstanding the known limitations of this principle, it has been included in almost every present-day airplane which has been built.

### The Problem of Stability

After considering the profound effect of the dihedral principle, we reached the conclusion that a flyer should appear at night to be of interest from a scientific point of view, but could be of no value as a practical way. We therefore resolved to try a fundamentally different principle. We would arrange the machine so that it would not tend to right itself. We would make it as inert as possible to the effects of change of direction or speed, and thus reduce the effects of wind-gusts to a minimum. We would do this in the first-aid-aid stability by giving the aerodynamic a positive shape, and in the lateral balance, by arching the surface from tip to tip, just the reverse of what our predecessors had done. Then by some suitable contrivance, actuated by the operator, forces should be brought into play to regulate the balance.

Lalande and Chanute had graded and balanced their machines by shifting the weight of the operator's body. Our

first method seemed to us acceptable of expense to meet large oscillations, between the weight to be moved and the distance of possible motion were limited, while the distorting forces steadily increased, both with wing area and with wind velocity. In order to meet the needs of large machines, we wished to employ some system whereby the operator could vary at will the inclination of different parts of the wings, and thus obtain from the wind forces to restore the balance which the wind itself had disturbed. This could easily be done by using wings capable of being warped, and by supplementary adjustable surfaces in the shape of balloons. As the forces obtainable for control would necessarily increase in the same ratio as the disturbing forces, the method seemed capable of expansion to an almost unlimited extent. A happy device was discovered whereby the apparently rigid system of air-suspended surfaces, covered by frames, and supported by bracing-ropes and Chanute, could be changed in a most unexpected way, so that the aerodynamic could be pointed on the right and left sides at different angles to the wind. Thus, with an adjustable, horizontal front rudder, formed the main feature of our first glider.

The period from 1885 to 1900 was one of unexampled activity in aeronautics, and for a time there was high hope that the age of flying was at hand. But Manassas, after spending \$100,000, abandoned the work; the Army machine, built at the expense of the French Government, was a failure; Lalande and Pflüger were killed in experiments; and Chanute and many others, from one cause or another, had relinquished their efforts, though at subsequently become known that Professor Langley was still actively at work on a machine for the United States Government. The public, discouraged by the failures and transferred yet interested, considered flight beyond the reach of men, and closed its attention to the revelation of perpetual motion.

We began our active experiments at the close of this period, in October, 1890, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Our machine was designed to be flown as a kite, with a man on board, or with a force fifteen to twenty miles an hour. But, upon trial, it was found that such strains would be re-



built entirely from calculations, gone to useful work 68 per cent of the power expended. This was about one third more than had been secured by Manx or Langley.

### The First Power Flights

The first flights with the power-machine were made on the 17th of December, 1903. Only five persons became spectators were present. These were Menzies, John T. Daniels, W. B. Thayer, and A. L. Kibler of the Kill Devil Hills Flying Station. Mr. W. C. Brinkley of Dayton, and Mr. John Ward of Nagshead. Although a general invitation had been extended to the people living within five or six miles, not many were willing to leave the region of a cold December wind in order to see, so they no longer thought another fly-machine was due. The first flight lasted only twelve seconds, a flight very

strenuous to make. To add to the other difficulty, the status refused to work properly. The machine, after reaching the length of the track, slid off the end without rising into the air at all. Several of the newspaper men returned the next day, but were again disappointed. The engine performed badly, and after a glide of only thirty feet, the machine sank to the ground. Further trial was postponed till the winter could be put in better running condition. The spectators had none, no doubt, but confidence in the machine, though they were, in fact, somewhat skeptical. Later, when they found that we were making flights of several minutes' duration, known that fewer flights had been made with kites, and not knowing any essential difference between kites and fly-machines, they were but little skeptical.

We had not been flying long in 1904 before we found the

flights were made at Henson Station in 1903, though several changes had been made to meet present requirements. The apparatus was a power machine, made of light iron, weighing 100 lb., and a seat was added for a passenger. A large motor was installed, and radiators and gasoline reservoirs at larger capacity, replaced those previously used. No attempt was made to make the structure lighter.

In order to show the general reader the way in which the machine operates, let us fancy ourselves ready for the start. The machine is placed upon a single rail track facing the motor, in a building the machine is balanced on the rail, starts in motion, and the propellers in the rear whir. You take your seat at the center of the machine beside the operator. You sit in a bucket, and you shoot forward. An assistant who is in a bucket behind you, who is a mile away, starts the motor with his hand, but before you have gone fifty feet the speed is too great for him, and he lets go. Before reaching the end of the track the operator moves the front rudder, and the machine flies over the end like a kite. The ground under you is a flat, a perfect flat, but as you rise the objects become clear. At a height of one hundred feet you feel hardly any motion at all, except for the wind which strikes your face. If you did not take the precaution to fasten your hat before you start you have probably lost it by this time. The operator swings the right wing down, and the machine swings about to the left. You make a very short turn, yet you see

feel the sensation of being thrown from your seat, an effect experienced in automobile and railway travel. You feel yourself being thrown toward the point from which you started. The objects in the ground now appear to be moving at some high speed, though your personal air change in the pressure of the wind on your face. You know then that you are traveling with a speed of some 100 miles an hour. The air is so dense, so close about the machine still high in the air. The machine comes down at an oblique angle to the ground, and after sliding fifty or a hundred feet comes to rest. Although the machine was propelled by means of a speed of 100 miles an hour, you did not shock whatever, and cannot, in fact, tell the exact moment at which it first touched the ground. The motor close beside you kept up an almost deafening roar during the whole flight, yet in your excitement, you did not seem to tell it stopped.

Our experiments have been conducted entirely at our own expense. In the beginning we had no thought of receiving money for our experiments, which were not great, and was limited to what we could afford for recreation. Later, when a successful flight had been made with a motor, we gave up the business in which we were engaged, to devote our entire time and energy to the development of the machine for practical use. As soon as our condition is such that constant attention to business is not required, we expect to prepare for publishing the results of our laboratory experiments, which show made an early solution of the flying problem possible.

## How We Made The First Flight

By ORVILLE WRIGHT

Reprinted from "Flight," December 1912

Fig. 1. First flight at the airport Wright machine, at Kitty Hawk, N. C., Dec. 17, 1903.—The machine, piloted by Orville M. Wright, has just left the ground on which a gathered group stand under the combined threat of its propulsion and of a howling gale. Wilbur Wright is standing at machine.

motion compared with that of birds, but it was, nevertheless, the first in the history of the world in which a machine carrying a man had moved itself in its own power into the air in free flight, had sailed forward on a free course without restriction of speed, and had finally landed without being wrecked. The second and third flights were a little longer, and the fourth lasted fifty-one seconds, covering a distance of 552 feet over the ground after a twenty-one yard.

After the last flight the machine was carried back to camp and set down in what was thought to be a safe place. But five months later, while we were engaged in conversations about the flight, a sudden gust of wind struck the machine, and started to turn it over. All made a rush to stop it, but we were too late. Mr. Daniels, a point in stream and strength, was lifted off his feet, and flying aside, between the surface was shaken about like a marble in a box as the machine rolled over and over. The finally fell on its side with the wind with machine some three powerful blows, but the damage to the machine caused a thorough examination of the machine.

### Flying Experiments at Dayton

In the spring of 1904, through the kindness of Mr. Huffman of Dayton, Ohio, we were permitted to erect a shed, and to conduct experiments on what is known as Huffman House at Henson Station, eight miles east of Dayton. The new machine was brought and stronger, but similar to the one from at Kill Devil Hill. When it was ready for its first trial, every newspaper at Dayton was notified, and about a dozen representatives of the press were present. That our reports were taken, and that the reports be sensational, so as not to attract crowds to our experimental grounds. There were probably fifty persons altogether on the ground. When preparations had been completed, a wind of only three miles an hour was blowing—insufficient for starting on so short a track, when some many had come a long way to see the machine in action, as

the problem of flying experiments had not so far been entirely solved. Sometimes, in making a circle, the machine would turn over sideways despite anything the operator could do, although, under the same conditions in ordinary straight flight, it could have been rolled as an instant. In one flight in 1904, when reaching around a ninety-degree turn at a height of about fifty feet, the machine suddenly began to turn up on its wing, and back a course toward the tree. The operator, not taking the idea of landing in a three-turn, attempted to roll the ground. The left wing, however, struck the line of sight of the tree, and twelve feet from the ground, and carried over several hundred feet, but the flight, which had already covered a distance of six miles, was continued to the starting point.

### The Improved Wright Airplane

The success of these troubles—two hundred feet in elevation here—was not entirely overcome till the end of November, 1905. The flights then, equally increased in length, till after results were demonstrated after the 5th of October, in a series of the number of people attracted to the field. Although made on a ground open on every side, and bordered on two sides by much treed forest, the machine was seen passing over, and seen by all the people living in the neighborhood for miles around, and by several hundred others. These flights have been made by means of a new propeller, the subject of a new "patent."

A great deal of having been finally realized, we spent the years 1906 and 1907 in constructing new machines and in business experiments. It was not till May of this year that we began to make a new machine, which was named at Kill Devil Hill, North Carolina. The second flight was made to test the ability of our machine to meet the requirements of a contract with the United States Government to make flying machines of carrying two persons at a speed of 100 miles an hour. The flight of 125 miles, with a speed of forty miles an hour. The machine used in these tests was the same one which

The flights of the 1905 glider had demonstrated the efficiency of our system of constructing airplanes, and also the solidity of the laboratory work upon which the design of the glider was based. We then felt that we were prepared to make an advance the performance of machines with a degree of accuracy that had never been possible with the data and tables possessed by our performers. Before leaving camp in 1902 we were ready to work on the ground steps of a new machine which we proposed to propel with a motor.

### Developing the Power Plant

Immediately upon our return to Dayton, we wrote to a number of automobile and aeronautical engineers, inquiring as to which we desired a motor, and asking whether they could build one that would develop eight-horse power, with a weight complete not exceeding 300 lb. Most of the answers returned that they were too large with their engines to undertake the building of such a motor for us, but no one replied that they had motors rated at 8 hp. besides the French system of ratings, which suggested only 50 lb., and that of which we thought that it would be difficult to develop enough power for our purpose, they would be glad to do so. After an examination of the particulars of this motor, from which we learned that it had but a single cylinder of 4-in. bore and 4-in. stroke, and that it was a very simple machine. Unless the motor would develop a 300 lb. it was too small to be of any use.

When we decided to undertake the building of the motor we wrote to the engineers who could make one of 300 lb. with 4-in. bore and 4-in. stroke, weighing not over 300 lb., including all accessories. Our only experience up to that time in the building of machine motors had been in the construction of an engine of 100 lb. weight, and we were not sure that we could not build the machinery of our small workshop. To be sure, we had four cylinders of the same we had adopted in 1903, and we would develop the necessary 8 hp., we first had to make a motor of 300 lb. weight, and we were not sure that we could not build the machinery of our small workshop. In fact, we were not sure that we could not build the machinery of our small workshop. In fact, we were not sure that we could not build the machinery of our small workshop. In fact, we were not sure that we could not build the machinery of our small workshop.

work in our shop for the first at well as for the subsequent experiments. There was no provision for lubricating either cylinders or bearings while the motor was running. For this reason it was not possible to run it more than a minute or two at a time. In these short tests the motor was run at a speed of 1000 revolutions per minute, with proper lubrication and better adjustments, a little more power could be expected. The completion of the motor was something to drawing was, therefore, proceeded with at once. To make the motor work with a motor, we were not sure that we could not build the machinery of our small workshop. In fact, we were not sure that we could not build the machinery of our small workshop. In fact, we were not sure that we could not build the machinery of our small workshop.

Our tables of air pressures and our experience in flying the 1902 glider, enabled us, we thought, to estimate exactly the thrust necessary to sustain the machine in flight. To design a propeller that would give this thrust with the power we had at our command, was a matter we had not as yet seriously considered. No data on our propellers was available, and we had no idea of the efficiency of a propeller, neither to secure an efficiency of 50 per cent with marine propellers. All that would be necessary would be to learn the theory of the operation of marine propellers from books on marine engineering, and to make a model of a propeller, and water passages. Accordingly, we secured several such books from the Dayton Ohio library. Much to our surprise, all the formulas on propellers contained in these books were of no current value. There was no way of adapting these calculations of actual propellers. As we could afford neither the time or expense of a long series of experiments to find by trial a propeller suitable for our machine, we decided to rely upon our theory that was the practice with marine engineers.

It was apparent that a propeller was simply an airplane traveling in a spiral course. As we could not calculate the effect of a current of air, there was no way of adapting these calculations of actual propellers. As we could afford neither the time or expense of a long series of experiments to find by trial a propeller suitable for our machine, we decided to rely upon our theory that was the practice with marine engineers.

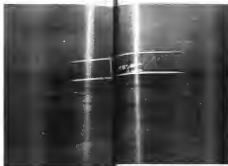








Wright Assembly Plant—Kittyhawk, N. C., 1912

The  
Manufacture of  
Unsurpassable  
Service

First successful flight, Kittyhawk—Kittyhawk, N. C., 1903

## THE ARC OF TIME

Twenty years ago the genius of Orville and Wilbur Wright culminated in the first successful flight of a heavier-than-air plane. These patents are a direct inheritance of this company.

Ten years ago through our practice the organization of Wright made possible the designing and manufacturing of aircraft engines in huge volume to meet the military requirements of the Great War.

Today this great organization by strict adherence to ideals and principles established by the Wright Brothers twenty years ago are furthering the advancement of aviation in both military and commercial purposes.

WRIGHT AERONAUTICAL CORPORATION  
Ft. Worth, Texas, U.S.A.

# W R I C H T



Wright Plant—Dayton, Ohio, 1923

The  
Manufacture of  
Unsurpassable  
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# U. S. Naval Air Expedition into the Arctic

Ariship Shemanchuk and Naval Planes to Explore Vast Unknown Region of Polar Basin

With the approval of President Coolidge, the U. S. Navy has decided to send an expedition into the Arctic next summer for the exploration of a vast unknown region of the polar basin. While naval vessels will be used as seagoing, the expedition will be primarily aerial and include the rapid naval ship Shemanchuk, in addition to a number of planes.

When the expedition shall set out and the detailed plans have not been determined. There are to be considered and investigated the problems of the Arctic, as suggested by Secretary Doolittle, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

The decision of the Government will not interfere with the arrangements recently concluded with the Navy Department by Capt. Ralph E. Doolittle to take part in the Arctic polar flight to complete under the leadership of Capt. Roald Amundsen. Three expeditions will be used in the Amundsen flight and one of them is to be piloted by Lieutenant Doolittle. The Navy's expedition will be independent of the Amundsen expedition.

## The President's Letter

President Coolidge's letter at authorization to the Secretary of the Navy follows:—

THE WHITE HOUSE, Washington, Nov. 26, 1923.  
My dear Mr. Secretary:

I desire to authorize by this letter the project which you have in mind to send an expedition into the Arctic region of the Arctic. The expedition will be primarily aerial and include the rapid naval ship Shemanchuk, in addition to a number of planes. When the expedition shall set out and the detailed plans have not been determined. There are to be considered and investigated the problems of the Arctic, as suggested by Secretary Doolittle, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Very truly yours,  
CALVIN COOLIDGE

## Secretary Doolittle's Order

Secretary Doolittle, in releasing this letter, said today public orders appointing Admiral Moffett as senior member of the board to prepare plans for the expedition. The orders read:

"You will convene the board on some convenient date at which the appointed senior member of the board as well as the following members of the U. S. Navy:—Capt. E. A. Allen, U. S. N.; Lt. Comdr. Frank Green, U. S. N.; Lt. Comdr. Robert A. Bartlett, U. S. N.; and Mr. Gilbert Greenhouse are members, and Lt. Comdr. Harold T. Bartlett, U. S. N., as counsel and recorder, to convene at the Navy Department to make a decision upon the project and to prepare a detailed plan for the exploration of the North Polar Region. You will convene the board on some convenient date."

The board will submit its report to the Department by the first of December.

The members have been directed to report to you for the day when convened by you as to the time the board will convene.

"This is an order for your present duties."

of practical value will be sought, and an investigation will be made of the feasibility of transpolar routes for aircraft, from east and west between Northern Europe and the Pacific. The expedition is said to be an outgrowth of the desire of Captain Bartlett, the explorer who sailed Admiral Peary's ship, the "Albatross," on his expedition in 1906-1907, which was the first and second expeditions to the North Pole.

It is said that the expedition will be led by Admiral Moffett, who is said to be the most experienced and capable of the Navy. The expedition is said to be the most experienced and capable of the Navy. The expedition is said to be the most experienced and capable of the Navy.

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## Air Mail Across the Pole

That the Arctic offers interesting possibilities to an air route between Europe and Europe has recently been shown by Vilgelmur Rostomski, the noted Arctic explorer, in his book "The Arctic."

According to him, the proposed Navy expedition into the Arctic could lead to the development of regular transpolar air routes, which would be of great importance to the world in connection with air commerce over the North Pole.

Mr. Rostomski predicted that the polar sea, in time, would be traversed with an ease of air travel like the task of a steamer line covering the Atlantic, and that the supposed treacher of the Arctic would disappear. Instead of being a barrier between America and Asia, the Arctic, he predicted, would be a highway to a large part of the world, and world transportation would be changed almost as much by the

December 15, 1923

AVIATION

749

also, to sail, as it was by the idea that the world was round instead of flat.

"If the Navy plan were a mere attempt to reach the North Pole it would have little interest or value," said Mr. Rostomski. "It is a bold step as a step in the development of a route to the Arctic region never before visited by any explorer and it may also show the work previously done by other explorers. Then it becomes an event of great interest and importance."

## An Event of Great Importance

Admiral Moffett's plan is developed along the lines he suggested by Rostomski, and then only, will it be an epoch-making event. Admiral Moffett has said that he looked upon a voyage to Alaska as a voyage including an era of transpolar commerce by air. The line and, I think that other explorers agree with him, that flying to the Arctic summer is as no more dangerous or difficult than a flight to the length over land or between New York and Europe. The voyage is the transpolar discovery what we expect, then, as Admiral Moffett has said, we shall have regular transpolar flights and routes within ten years.

In all probability, the first regular route would be between London and Alaska, because there are important routes there, which there is a steady interchange of urgent letters and despatches. That route would be several thousand miles shorter than any route following roughly the Trans-Siberian Railway. The shortest route from London to Alaska would be a straight line from London to the North Pole, and then to Alaska. This route would be several thousand miles shorter than any route following roughly the Trans-Siberian Railway. The shortest route from London to Alaska would be a straight line from London to the North Pole, and then to Alaska.

## Polar Temperatures

According to the works of theoretical meteorology, published as much as ten years ago, the average temperature in July at the North Pole itself, five feet above sea level, was estimated at exactly the freezing point. It is now believed that the average temperature of the air above the North Pole would be from ten to twenty degrees warmer, or between +10 and +20 deg. F. In the summer the temperature of flying balloons might average as low as 40 or even 50 deg. below zero, but this would be no objection, as the air at such altitudes contains parts of the Northern United States, and not south, as said in that connection by planes flying at such altitudes at night be required under certain conditions to be illuminated by powerful searchlights.

"Winter days in the Arctic, although common, are on the whole much longer than days farther south, and flying would be better in winter than in summer. The season early in the autumn, before winter could set in, would be the best time to start, as the clouds are then about as thin as over the Sahara Desert."

## Aerial Air Commerce

"What practical interests are about the Arctic is not the making of those plans that are still uncompleted, but rather the interest and diffusion of our knowledge about the polar region. Mr. Rostomski's synthesis, summarized in his book, is a first step, and it will be the beginning of a series of works to be written that eventually shall cover the polar sea. The work is not the making of those plans that are still uncompleted, but rather the interest and diffusion of our knowledge about the polar region. Mr. Rostomski's synthesis, summarized in his book, is a first step, and it will be the beginning of a series of works to be written that eventually shall cover the polar sea."

The Arctic is the smallest of all the oceans. If you look at a map, the Northern Hemisphere (one that has the equator for its southern limit) will see that the Arctic has between 20,000,000 and 30,000,000 square miles of water. The Arctic is the smallest of all the oceans. If you look at a map, the Northern Hemisphere (one that has the equator for its southern limit) will see that the Arctic has between 20,000,000 and 30,000,000 square miles of water.

## New Attempt at Altitude Record

Loret, John A. Macready, A.S., will soon make an attempt to establish a new altitude record. The main purpose of the flight is to establish a new altitude record. The main purpose of the flight is to establish a new altitude record. The main purpose of the flight is to establish a new altitude record.

On Sept. 28, 1923, Lieutenant Macready established the world's record at 34,500 ft. This remained the record until Oct. 30, 1923, when flight Lieutenant, the French pilot, succeeded in an altitude of 35,000 ft. This is the record which is now being contested with the Macready record. Lieutenant Macready expects to beat it.

The supercharger to be tested has undergone considerable improvement in design since the one used by Lieut. Macready in 1923. It is now a more modern design. The main purpose of the flight is to establish a new altitude record. The main purpose of the flight is to establish a new altitude record. The main purpose of the flight is to establish a new altitude record.

Lieutenant Macready will use the old Laplace (1914) plane which on three previous occasions has been used in the establishment of altitude records. To make the test less grueling for the pilot, new systems have been devised for heating the engine and supporting the pilot. The fact that the engine is heated, will add to the comfort of the pilot, while the complete system precludes the danger of the supply pipe for the engine being frozen by the cold air.

Strange varieties of the human mind are developed during such flights at great heights, according to a War Department release. For instance, there seems to be a general tendency to feel better and more comfortable at high altitudes. This is probably due to the difference in the air pressure from that to which man is accustomed, some are due to the lack of oxygen which is not so easily replaced by artificial means, some are due to the intense cold which is necessary to keep the plane climbing by securing the proper functioning of the engine while the pilot's endurance is gradually exhausted.

## Flying in Wyoming

Edging, AVIATION.—

I have read with interest in your issue of Nov. 26, the announcement of Lloyd M. Long, while flying in the W. K. state of Texas. It appears that he had some difficulty in getting his ship and the weather to do what he wanted. It is a pity that he had to be interrupted by the weather. It is a pity that he had to be interrupted by the weather. It is a pity that he had to be interrupted by the weather.

Miss I. Watson, who said that all the people of this neck of the woods know, namely that Mr. Long had been making a record in the Wyoming. It is a pity that he had to be interrupted by the weather. It is a pity that he had to be interrupted by the weather. It is a pity that he had to be interrupted by the weather.

There is no doubt that this is a record. It is a pity that he had to be interrupted by the weather. It is a pity that he had to be interrupted by the weather. It is a pity that he had to be interrupted by the weather.

HARRY A. CHANDLER  
NEW YORK  
Book Springs, N.Y. Dec. 15, 1923















Trade Mark

## Marching Ahead at Double Time

The aircraft industry today is just about as old as was James Watt's steam engine when the first awe-struck visitors stage-coached many dusty miles to see the first railway train. In the nineteenth century man through his development of machinery made a greater advance than all the progress of the human race in all the ages before.

It is difficult to predict the amazing future of

the airplane. In its early infancy it has already shown itself to be Invention's most precocious child. Only those who are closest to the industry fully appreciate the amazing rate at which it is advancing. "To keep your light so shining a little ahead o'the next" is a real triumph when the whole parade is marching at double time. Since 1909, however, Martin engineering has set standards for the industry.

**THE GLENN L. MARTIN COMPANY**  
CLEVELAND

*Builders of Quality Aircraft since 1909*